

VOLUME 34 ISSUE 7

# Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

July 2015

## President's Message

By Bob Dreyer



The **Capitol Clarion** is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

**Marti Dennis, Managing Editor**

Bill Geach, Editor Eternal

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1<sup>st</sup> of the month.**

Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at: **mdennis1@att.net**

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter  
PO Box 19956  
Sacramento, CA 95819

The past six months as your Board President have been interesting and filled with stimulating conversations, both good and not so good plans, and successful activities. It is clearly evident to me that change is in the air, and flexibility will be key to our organization going forward and continuing to do great things at the Capitol.

With this observation in mind, starting on **July 21<sup>st</sup>** we will **welcome our new class** and start them down the road to becoming "Capitol Docents." We selected nineteen individuals to start the class and have high hopes for each of them. They are a diverse group in every way, and I feel they have much to contribute to our association. We will send everyone the class schedule so that you can join the class for any refresher training you might want. You may receive a call from a committee person asking for assistance with the class, so please help if you can. Mentors will be needed, and Pat Butler has again volunteered to assist with that part of the training. Mentors provide some of the most important training we give our new members and, speaking from my own experience, the advice and training I received from my Mentor was what encouraged me to be the best I could be whenever I am in the Capitol.

On **July 29<sup>th</sup>** many of you will be attending the **River Cat's game** as part of our group of members, friends, and family. Sixty of us will be in attendance seated together in great seats in Section 118, rows 21 -26. If you purchased tickets, they will be waiting for you at the "Will Call" window at the ballpark. Watch your e-mail for further game information.

Our next **Board meeting** will be on **Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup>**. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, come on down to the Capitol and join us! Meetings start at 1:00 PM, and you can check at the West Information Desk for the room number.

~ **Bob**

## Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the **Clarion**, a card has been sent to the following individual:

**Marty McKnew** – Get well wishes for a speedy recovery from pneumonia

Please remember that If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of all our membership. Scotty can be contacted at [hashhogg901@yahoo.com](mailto:hashhogg901@yahoo.com) or by phone at 707- 425-1909.



## Victorian Sacramento: A Training Opportunity

**Sunday, July 19 at 1:30 PM**, noted local historian and author **William Burg** will be doing a talk on Albert Gallatin's **Victorian Sacramento**. William has researched Albert Gallatin and will share his greater role in the streetcar system and other civic projects. William works for the Office of Historic Preservation and has served as President of The Sacramento Old City Association, aka Preservation Sacramento. The presentation will be in **Room 126** in the **State Capitol**.



## New Member Class:

Just a little over a week from now, **July 21** to be exact, our new member class of 19 will assemble for the first time and begin 4 ½ weeks of training to become knowledgeable ambassadors of the California State Capitol. A schedule of the individual sessions will be provided in a separate mailing. As in the past, current members are invited, indeed encouraged, to join any or all of the class sessions in order to refresh our memories and to meet our new volunteers.

An effort of this size can only be successful with the help of current volunteers assisting in a variety of roles. The "Help Wanted" sign is out to identify those of us who want to be an important part of this interesting experience. In particular, **Pat Butler** [patkenb@aol.com](mailto:patkenb@aol.com) is seeking volunteers to serve as Mentors; **Leslie Cooper** [lesmaryandb@att.net](mailto:lesmaryandb@att.net) and **Judi Smith** [soakk7720@sbcglobal.net](mailto:soakk7720@sbcglobal.net) are looking for volunteers to help with assembling the class materials; and **Marti Dennis** [mdennis1@att.net](mailto:mdennis1@att.net) is organizing members to provide some refreshments for each class session. Please consider your skills and interests and offer to help in one or more areas of need!

## River Cats Baseball Night:

Sixty CSCMVA members along with family and /or friends are looking forward to sharing the night of **July 29** at Raley Field for some fun and fellowship – and of course Rive Cats baseball! Those who have purchased tickets will be receiving an email soon regarding the specifics of parking and pick up of tickets. While the details are forthcoming, we are assured of the fact that parking is now **FREE** and that our tickets will be waiting for us at the "**Will Call**" window. If there are questions following receipt of the detailed information, you can contact either **Alex King** or **Bob Dreyer**. We have them to thank for proposing this summer outing and making all the arrangements for it to become a reality.

## Ronald Reagan Statue Placed in the Lower Rotunda

**Contributor: Richard Levin, PORTS Program , CA State Parks**

On June 22 a bronze 8 foot statue of a briskly walking **Ronald Reagan** was unveiled in the Lower Rotunda. The statue was sculpted by Douglas Van Howd and was the gift of the Ronald Reagan Centennial Capitol Foundation. Participating in the dedication event were **former Secretary of State George Shultz** and **former Secretary of Energy, John Herrington**. The sculptor, Mr. Van Howd, was a close friend of President Reagan and served as White House artist during the Reagan administration.

The sculpture of the young Christopher Columbus was removed to accommodate this bigger than life size image of California's former governor and United States President.

The photo at right is of **Rachel Martinez**, our Volunteer Coordinator, with new informational brochures sent to the Capitol from the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley. Guides and docents will make this information available to visiting members of the public who desire more information on our 40<sup>th</sup> President. All California State Parks tours will assemble and begin at the Reagan statue.



**Rachel Martinez**

## Sewing Workshop:



As reported last month, **August 3 through 7** is another opportunity to design, cut out and sew a costume for the 1911 period and, if you have an unfinished 1906 costume, you are invited to participate as well. It won't be long, and we will be casting the 1911 Women's Suffrage Day living history, and this workshop provides a productive and fun time to share costuming ideas (and challenges) with a group of talented and helpful volunteers. The workshop is coordinated and guided by **Connie Clark** and **Ann Rost** and will be held in the Stanford Gallery in Old Town Sacramento from 9:00 – 3:00 August 3 – 7. Please let Connie [cclark610@surewest.net](mailto:cclark610@surewest.net) or Ann [annrost5@gmail.com](mailto:annrost5@gmail.com) know of your interest in participating in this fun and productive experience.

## Rachel's Reminders:

- In addition to help needed on **Sunday** (*please, please, please!*), we could use more **North Door** volunteers too! The North Door Information booth receives a lot of public contact and is a great way to engage with visitors! The position is especially helpful during the weekends, as it is the only entrance open. Feel free to schedule yourselves for any openings in this position on **VicNet**.
- With more and more visitors coming each day, please pay attention to the number of people in the historical rooms. **One of the WI Desk duties is to act as a back-up**; if more than 4 visitors are in a room, please ask a back-up to join you. Another **one of the WI Desk duties is to respond to any alarms that sound**. Please keep in mind

staff & volunteers stationed in Exhibit/Historical rooms are discouraged from leaving the rooms if possible, as they have artifacts to watch as well.

- The **Lost & Found**, previously located at the CHP office, has now been moved to **Room 3030**.

## Did You Know....

By Clem Dougherty

(*Editor's Note:* This article represents the third in a new series entitled "**The Rise of San Francisco as The Queen City of the Pacific.**")

Did you know that racism played an important role in San Francisco's early history as a city? Yes, it's true. News of a gold strike in California electrified the world, and coming into the City were races and nationalities from every corner of the globe. As a result San Francisco took on an international character right from its earliest beginnings. Permeating the external veneer of the City as a melting pot was racism which divided the City into several ethnic groups. Because they were the largest ethnic group in the City, the Americans and other Anglos held up the white, Anglo Saxon, Protestant model as the ideal which the other races and nationalities were to emulate. This model contained such supposed virtues as being strong, self-reliant, noble, superior, independent, honest, upright, freedom loving, brave, and always doing the right thing. At the bottom of the heap were the Chinese, the Mexicans, the Native Americans, the Blacks, the South Americans and, because they were seen as Catholics dominated by a foreign Pope and also as ex-convicts from Australia, the Irish.

Many Italians came from South America which establishes the background for the following story, a story like all such stories with gaps to be filled in by educated guesses. Our story begins with an Italian whose name was Antonio Vescovo. He was born on July 10, 1820, in the town of Capodistria outside of Trieste in the very north east corner of Italy. (Today Capodistria is the city of Koper now a part of Slovenia.) He left Capodistria and travelled to the city of Montevideo in Uruguay (southern South America) where he met Margarite Lastreto, an Italian girl who was born in Montevideo on June 1, 1845. Antonio and Margarite married on January 16, 1860. At the time of their marriage he was 40 years old and she was 15 (not unusual for the time). We can place Antonio (but not Margarite) in San Francisco in 1852 just as the Gold Rush is peaking. But by 1860, as the Gold Panning part of the Gold Rush ends, both Antonio and Margarite are in San Francisco where both appear in the 1860 census of the City.

What we do know is that sometime in the early 1850s, Antonio changed his name from Antonio Vescovo to Peter Wilson. The later story in the family is that Antonio admired a sea captain whose name was Wilson and changed his name to Peter Wilson in the captain's honor. But did Antonio really change his name in honor of the Captain or did he do it because of the prevailing discrimination in San Francisco against southern Europeans and South Americans - a more practical reason for changing one's name so drastically to an Anglo form and away from its Italian roots? For the rest of his life until his death on December 8, 1899, at the age of 79, Antonio would vacillate between the two names: Antonio Vescovo and Peter Wilson.



The ship "Pilgrim"

But who was this Captain Wilson? The answer may lie in the great American book –Two Years Before the Mast by Richard Dana. Dana wrote this book to catalogue his travels to California aboard the sailing ships: the Pilgrim and then the Alert during the years 1834-1836, during the Spanish/Mexican/Mission period and twelve



years before the start of the Gold Rush in 1848. Dana took part in the cattle hide and tallow trade between the missions/ranchos of California and the Yankee sailing ships from Boston/New York. In the book Dana described a well-respected sea captain named John Wilson whose ship, the Ayacucho, participated in the same hide and tallow trade. In the book Dana also described another ship: an Italian one named the La Rosa also involved in the hide and tallow trade. The fascinating connection here is that Dana met Captain Wilson again, some 24 years later, in 1860 in San Francisco. In other words Captain Wilson was in San Francisco in 1860--the very year that Antonio and Margarite appear in the City census. Was Captain John Wilson the Captain Wilson so admired by Antonio? Was Antonio involved in the hide and tallow trade in the Spanish/Mexican period prior to the Gold Rush? Was Antonio on the Ayacucho or the La Rosa? Did Antonio change his name because he wanted to disguise his Italian ancestry and pass as Anglo in a dominating Anglo culture? Perhaps, we will never know.

Antonio and Margarite are Volunteer Clem Dougherty's great grandparents on his mother's side. The maiden name of Clem's mother was Elmyra Wilson (aka Elmyra Vescovo) born January 13, 1913 in San Francisco.

(Sources: Lochtin, Roger W.: San Francisco, 1846-1856, From Hamlet to City, pp.100-135; Dana, Jr. Richard H.: Two Years Before the Mast, Penquin Classics, Viking Penquin, Inc., 1981, pp.100-107;186;268;507-519;1852 Census of San Francisco, Schedule L;1860 Census of San Francisco, p.22; Rawls and Bean: California, An Interpretive History, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., pp. 140-156; Rice, Bullough, Orsi, The Elusive Eden, A New History of California, 3rd ed.,pp. 200-204;216-218)

## Volunteer Spotlight:

By Asleain "Scotty" Hodges

(Editor's note: The following article originally appeared in a previous issue of the Capitol Clarion.)

The quiet and demure style of this volunteer may mask the fact that she is self-assured and assertive when need be. Her warm smile is also a clue to the fact that she is just a delight to work with. She has quite a different background than I was expecting, but none-the-less, it is a fascinating one. As I relate the personal history of this member's life, try and guess which volunteer it might be. She grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa, and became heavily involved with the multiracial and anti-apartheid University Christina Movement in the early 1970's. After the organization was completely banned by the South African government, she left the country, escaped from "it all" and moved to New York City, USA with her two young children in tow.

She joined the workforce at the United Methodist Church Board of Global Ministries, and during her tenure there, she completed her education earning her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees in Publishing. In 1989, she relocated to Sacramento and began anew with the California State Department of Education. The last ten years of her career there she served as the Managing Editor of Publications. In December of 2006, she stepped into retirement.

In 2007, after seeing an advertisement in the newspaper, she was motivated to join the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association. She says it sounded like an interesting way to meet people from different walks of life and getting to know more about the State Capitol – "a beautiful historic building" with which she "was always fascinated," she admits.



Sheila Bruton

If you have not already guessed who this is, this lady with the international experience is none other than **Sheila Bruton**. Not only is that international experience fascinating, it has provided Sheila with a useful skill that makes her comfortable talking with people of various races and ethnicities. She probably never meets a “stranger” as they say. Additionally, her work experience at the California State Department of Education has made her very knowledgeable of how a great part of the State machine functions. And she is able to translate her knowledge and understanding for the benefit of Capitol visitors.

At the Capitol, Sheila works primarily at the West Information Desk on alternating Wednesday afternoons. She has participated in Living History events, and on Camellia Day assembling the lovely flower corsages and boutonnieres. She has previously served on the CSCMVA Board and staffed the Children's' Table at this year's 1906 Earthquake Day. She enjoys attending training events and trips including tours of the Treasurer's Office, Stanford Mansion, and the Railroad Museum. She has served the Association by organizing and scheduling volunteers for participation in the Christmas Holiday Music Program.

Sheila says that she is continually motivated, because she enjoys meeting and helping people at the West Information Desk and sharing her admiration of the State Capitol Museum and all the wonderful history and art within. She stresses the fact that she loves being part of a group of enthusiastic people – volunteers and staff with similar interests and participating in new and different training events and exhibits. Sheila has been recognized by CSCMVA leadership as one of a special set of volunteers who have received the “Eureka Award” which, to quote the commendation, “is given to those great volunteers who have gone above and beyond every year!”

In her free time, Sheila regularly plays golf with a group of friends. She also confesses that she thoroughly enjoys her great-granddaughter, who she says is full of life, very bright and quick to learn. Sheila continues to enjoy travel both within the United States and Europe. This July she is off to Oregon. We wish her a safe and enjoyable trip and look forward to her return as she is a valued member of the Association.

## Minutes of the CSCMVA Board - July 1, 2015

By Marylin Thompson, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by **President Bob Dreyer**.

**Minutes** were approved as distributed.

**Treasurer's Report:** There was no report due to the absence of the Treasurer, Bob Dennis.

**Bookstore / Membership Report:** Due to the absence of Mary Geach, there was no report.

**State Parks Report:** **Rachel Martinez** reported on the hiring of a new Parks guide, Larry, and two interns, Ian and Isiah. Despite some objections to the recently delivered chairs for the West Information and School Tours desks, the decision was made to continue using them.



**2015 Board of Directors**

**Front Row:** Marylin Thompson, PJ Jones, Bob Dreyer, Bob Dennis

**Back Row :** Connie Clark, Alex King, Julie Mallett, Chris Tyler, David Keck

The WW II posters are in the public domain, and there are many attractive ones to choose from. If we select five, Parks will do a “trial run,” and see how well they sell. Size will be the same as the PIE posters. Chris Tyler volunteered to take a survey and report back with the top five choices within 2 – 3 weeks.

**Koren Benoit** distributed the 2014 Annual Report of the Historic State Capitol Commission.

#### **Continuing Business:**

- **River Cats Game:** Tickets will be at the Will Call window at Raley Field. The seats are on the shady side of the diamond, and parking is in the free lot with shuttle service if needed. Bob Dreyer will send an email to all ticket holders with pertinent information.
- **New Training Class:** Interviews have been held with 19 potential volunteers. Bob is impressed with the skills and quality of the applicants. Several speak other languages, including Dutch. They all have an interest in history and enjoy people. The deadline for applications was June 22<sup>nd</sup>, and interviews will conclude on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Choices and training schedule will be made by July 10. Training will encourage docents to have a broad knowledge of the Capitol so they can be “Rovers.” They also will be encouraged to team up with a “buddy” to ameliorate isolated stints in museum rooms. The Association will try to put on a skit from one of the living history events as part of the training – perhaps on the same day as the fashion show. It was also suggested to have some type of “coffee social” following the graduation to include all volunteers so that everyone feels welcome and included.
- **Suffrage Day:** Tentative calendar has been set up and letters will go out this summer so that new docents are included.
- **Penny Crusher:** Pictures were circulated by Bill White with the proposed designs for the crushed pennies.
- **ParK Tours:** Terry will hold a special training session after the new docent training, so that they can be included. Several of the applicants are Master Gardeners.

**The August Board meeting will be Wednesday, August 5 at 1:00 PM.  
All members are encouraged to attend.**

#### **Upcoming Events:**

##### **Training:**

**Victorian Sacramento**

**Sunday, July 19 at 1:30  
Room 126**

##### **New Members Class:**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays,  
July 21 – August 20**

##### **River Cats Game:**

**Wednesday, July 29**

##### **Sewing Workshop:**

**Monday – Friday,  
August 3 – August 7**

##### **Board of Directors Mtg.:**

**Wednesday, August 5**

<b>Admissions Day:</b>	<b>Wednesday, September 9</b>
<b>Women's' Suffrage Day:</b>	<b>Saturday, October 17</b>
<b>Holiday Music Program:</b>	<b>December 1 - 23</b>

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**To Use the Capitol Museum website, below: Copy the address to your web browser and then save the website to your list of "Favorites" or "Bookmark" it.**

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

**Volunteer Coordinator: 324-0319**  
**Rachel Martinez**

**Tour Guide Office: 324-0333**

**Scheduler's Desk: 324-2088**

**Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving,**

**Christmas and New Year's Day**